

SEC. 8. That Article twelve, of chapter ninety-seven of the Election Laws, be rewritten so that hereafter said Article twelve shall read as follows:

ARTICLE 12. COUNTING OF BALLOTS; PRECINCT RETURNS; CANVASS OF VOTES AND PREPARATION OF ABSTRACTS; CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS BY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

C. S. 5984,
amended.

C. S. 5984. *Proceedings when polls close; counting of ballots.*

Closing of polls.

At the time for closing the polls the Registrar shall announce that the polls are closed, but any qualified electors who are in the process of voting, or are in line within the voting enclosure waiting to vote, shall be allowed to vote before the polls close. After the polls are closed the Registrar shall then proceed to open one ballot box at a time for the purpose of counting the ballots in that box in the presence of all election officials, witnesses and watchers, if there are any present.

Opening one
ballot box at a
time.

Method of
counting ballots.

The counting of ballots shall be conducted as follows: One of the ballots shall be taken out of the ballot box by one of the Judges and opened in full view of all the judges and witnesses. If the Judges and Registrar all agree as to how the ballot shall be counted, one of them shall place it where it can be seen by any one present and shall read aloud distinctly the names of the candidates voted for and the vote on any issue submitted; and the tally-man shall tally the same directly on the tally sheets. In the event the Registrar and Judges cannot agree as to how the ballot shall be counted, such ballot shall not be counted, but shall be placed in an envelope and marked "Disputed Ballots" and returned to the County Board of Elections.

Tallying.

Disputed ballots.

Rejecting ballots.

No ballot shall be counted which is marked contrary to law, except that no ballot shall be rejected for any technical error unless it is impossible to determine the voter's choice.

Counting ballots
until completed.

The counting of ballots shall be continuous until completed. From the time the ballot box is opened and the count of votes begun, until the votes are counted and returns are made out, signed and certified as herein required, and given to the presiding Judge or Registrar for delivery to the County Board as required herein, the Registrar and Judges of Election in each precinct shall not separate, nor shall a Registrar or Judge leave the polling place except from unavoidable necessity. In case of illness or unavoidable necessity, the Board of Elections may substitute another qualified person for any precinct official so incapacitated.

Precinct officials
not to separate.